

STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

ECONOMIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION PO Box 45070, Olympia WA 98504-5010

September 13, 2010

Dear Tribal Leader:

We are contacting you to ask for your help in Washington State's efforts to improve outcomes for families and children in our Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program known as "WorkFirst." With the signing of Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 3141 on April 1, 2010, the Governor directed the WorkFirst Subcabinet to "examine best practices to meet the needs of WorkFirst families to obtain employment and achieve family self-sufficiency, to provide a report by December 2010, and plan to implement best practices that are sustainable."

We have seen an increase in the number of families seeking WorkFirst services during a period in which state revenues available to meet these needs have been decreasing. It is more important than ever that we maximize limited resources and accomplish better results for families.

We believe it is essential to the success of our WorkFirst Re-examination initiative to seek input from all sources in our examination of ways we can improve WorkFirst services. To that end, we would like to discuss and learn from the successful practices being used by Tribal TANF programs in serving clients.

For these purposes, Colleen Cawston, Director of the Department's Office of Indian Policy, would like to meet with tribal representatives to gather input on best practices. We have scheduled this meeting for Wednesday, September 29, 2010, at the Tulalip Resort-Casino, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Chinook 1 Meeting Room. Please see the following link for directions: http://www.tulalipcasino.com/directions.aspx.

You are also welcome to participate in this meeting by telephone conference call. The call-in number for the meeting is: (360) 407-3780, participant PIN code 691828#.

We hope you will be able to join us. If you plan to attend the meeting in person or by telephone, please respond to Mike Mowrey. Mike can be reached at 360-725-4656 or mowrems@dshs.wa.gov. Please feel free to contact him if you have any questions regarding this meeting.

<u>Note</u>: The federal Administration for Children and Families, Region 10, is sponsoring a Tribal TANF Conference at the Tulalip Resort-Casino, September 27 – 29. Our WorkFirst reexamination meeting will take place shortly after this Conference concludes on September 29. We'll be in the room next to the room where this Conference is being held.

We appreciate the opportunity to meet with you for this important work.

Sincerely,

Troy Hutson, Assistant Secretary Economic Services Administration

cc: Susan N. Dreyfus, Secretary

Colleen F. Cawston, Senior Director, Office of Indian Policy Babs Roberts, Acting Director, Community Services Division

Letter to Tribal Leaders Re WF Re-Examination Meeting @ Tulalip (9/13/2010)

The Honorable David Burnett, Chair Chehalis Confederated Tribes Post Office Box 536 Oakville, Washington 98568 The Honorable Michael Finley, Chair Colville Confederated Tribes Post Office Box 150 Nespelem, Washington 99155

The Honorable William Iyall, Chair Cowlitz Tribe Post Office Box 2547 Longview, Washington 98632

The Honorable Maria Lopez, Chair Hoh Tribe P.O.Box 2196 Forks, Washington 98331

The Honorable W. Ron Allen, Chair Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe 1033 Old Blyn Highway Sequim, Washington 98382 The Honorable Glen Nenema, Chair Kalispel Tribe Post Office Box 39 Usk, Washington 99180

The Honorable Frances Charles, Chair Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe 2851 Lower Elwha Road Port Angeles, Washington 98363

The Honorable Henry Cagey, Chair Lummi Nation 2616 Kwina Road Bellingham, Washington 98226-9298 The Honorable Michael Lawrence, Chair Makah Tribe Post Office Box 115 Neah Bay, Washington 98357

The Honorable Virginia Cross, Chair Muckleshoot Tribe 39015 172nd Avenue Southeast Auburn, Washington 98092

The Honorable Cynthia Iyall, Chair Nisqually Tribe 4820 She-Nah-Num Drive Southeast Olympia, Washington 98513

The Honorable Bob Kelly, Chair Nooksack Tribe Post Office Box 157 Deming, Washington 98244

The Honorable Jeromy Sullivan, Chair Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe 31912 Little Boston Road Northeast Kingston, Washington 98346

The Honorable Herman Dillon, Sr., Chair Puyallup Tribe 3009 E Portland Ave Tacoma, Washington 98404 The Honorable Anna Rose Counsell-Geyer, Chair Quileute Tribe Post Office Box 279 La Push, Washington 98350

The Honorable Fawn Sharp, President Quinault Nation Post Office Box 189 Taholah, Washington 98587

The Honorable Tom Wooten, Chair Samish Nation Post Office Box 217 Anacortes, Washington 98221 The Honorable Janice Mabee, Chair Sauk-Suiattle Tribe 5318 Chief Brown Lane Darrington, Washington 98241

The Honorable Charlene Nelson, Chair Shoalwater Bay Tribe Post Office Box 130 Tokeland, Washington 98590 The Honorable Charles "Guy" Miller, Chair Skokomish Tribe North 80 Tribal Center Road Shelton, Washington 98584 The Honorable Mary Anne Hinzman, Vice Chair Snoqualmie Tribe Post Office Box 280 Carnation, Washington 98014

The Honorable Greg Abrahamson, Chair Spokane Tribe Post Office Box 100 Wellpinit, Washington 99040 The Honorable David Lopeman, Chair Squaxin Island Tribe Southeast 10 Squaxin Lane Shelton, Washington 98584 The Honorable Shawn Yanity, Chair Stillaguamish Tribe Post Office Box 277 Arlington, Washington 98223

The Honorable Leonard Forsman, Chair Suquamish Tribe Post Office Box 498 Suquamish, Washington 98392 The Honorable Brian Cladoosby, Chair Swinomish Tribe 11404 Moorage Way LaConner, Washington 98257 The Honorable Melvin Sheldon, Jr., Chair Tulalip Tribes 6406 Marine Drive Tulalip WA 98271

The Honorable Jennifer Washington, Chair Upper Skagit Tribe 25944 Community Plaza Sedro Woolley, Washington 98284 The Honorable Harry Smiskin, Chair Yakama Nation Post Office Box 151 Toppenish, Washington 98948 Seattle Indian and Health Board Ralph Forquera, Director P.O. Box 3364 Seattle, WA 98114 N.A.T.I.V.E. Project Toni Lodge, Director W 1803 Maxwell Spokane, WA 99201

United Indians of All Tribes Fndn. Marty Bluewater, E.D., Director PO Box 99100 Seattle, WA 98199 American Indian Community Ctr Sophie Tonasket, Director 801 E. 2nd Ave., Ste. 10 Spokane, WA 99202

So. Puget Intertribal Planning Agy. Amadeo Tiam, Director SE 2750 Old Olympic Hwy Shelton, WA 98584 Small Tribes of Western Wash. Michael Evans, Director 3040 96th St S Lakewood, WA 98499